

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 2 and 14 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 3-13 to read as follows.

1. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus for executing recording by ejecting ~~inks~~ ink onto a recording medium based on ~~recorded~~ recording data using a recording head for ejecting ~~inks~~ the ink from ejection ports, comprising:

recovery means for executing recovery processing for maintaining the ink ejection capability of the recording head;

a cap member for capping the ejection ports of the recording head;

capping means for moving ~~the~~ said cap member in a direction ~~where the~~ in which said cap member approaches the recording head and in a direction ~~where the~~ in which said cap member is separated from the recording head;

measurement means for measuring a cap-open period that is an elapsed period of a cap-open state while recording onto the recording medium, in which the ejection ports are not capped with ~~the~~ said cap member; and

control means for executing the recovery processing by ~~the~~ said recovery means when the cap-open period cumulated by cumulation means exceeds a predetermined period,

wherein said control means resets the cumulated period when the recovery processing is executed while the cap-open period is cumulated.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said measurement means uses the elapsed period during which the recording is executed ~~to~~ on the recording medium as the cap-open period.

4. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said capping means can move ~~the~~ said cap ~~means~~ member to a capping state in which the ejection ports are capped with ~~the~~ said cap member and to a the cap-open state ~~in which the ejection ports are not capped with the cap member~~ state.

5. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recovery processing executed by ~~the~~ said recovery means includes suction recovery processing for discharging ~~inks~~ the ink from the ejection ports by suction.

6. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

calculation means for calculating the amount ~~inks~~ of ink discharged from the recording head by ejection;

wherein when the cumulated period is longer than a the predetermined period, ~~the~~ said control means further determines whether or not the discharged amount of the ~~inks~~ ink calculated by ~~the~~ said calculation means is ~~larger~~ greater than a predetermined amount, and when the discharged amount of the ~~inks~~ ink is ~~larger~~ greater than the predetermined amount, the recovery processing is further executed by ~~the~~ said recovery means.

7. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the discharged amount of the ~~inks~~ ink is ~~larger~~ greater than the predetermined amount, ~~the~~ said control means resets the cumulated period and the calculated discharged amount of the ~~inks~~ ink.

8. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ said calculation means calculates the discharged amount of the ~~inks~~ ink by counting the number of ink droplets ejected from the recording head.

9. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

determination means for determining whether or not the ~~recorded~~ recording data to be recorded next is present; and

memory means for storing the cumulated period and the discharged amount of the ~~inks~~; ink.

wherein when ~~it is~~ determined that the ~~recorded~~ recording data to be recorded next is not present, ~~the~~ said control means controls ~~the~~ said capping means such that the ejection ports are capped with ~~the~~ said cap member ~~as well as~~ and stores the cumulated period and the discharged amount of the ~~inks~~ ink in ~~the~~ said memory means.

10. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 9, wherein ~~the~~ said recovery means executes the recovery processing by discharging ~~inks~~ the ink by suction, and the recovery processing is executed differently by changing the amount of ~~inks~~ ink to be sucked.

11. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the cap members are provided, and the cap-open period is measured and cumulated by ~~the~~ said measurement means for each cap member.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of ~~the~~ recording heads are used in correspondence to ~~the~~ colors of the inks to be recorded, and the cap-open period is measured and cumulated for each of the ink colors.

13. (Currently amended) A recovery control method in an inkjet recording ~~apparatus, which~~ apparatus that executes recording by ejecting ~~inks~~ ink onto a recording medium based on ~~recorded~~ recording data using a recording head for ejecting the

~~inks~~ ink from ejection ports, and comprises recovery means for executing recovery processing for maintaining the ink ejection capability of the recording head, a cap member for capping the ejection ~~port~~ ports of the recording head, and capping means for moving the cap member in a direction ~~where~~ in which the cap member approaches the recording head and in a direction ~~where~~ in which the cap member is separated from the recording head, the recovery control method comprising the steps of:

measuring a cap-open period that is an elapsed period of a cap-open state while recording onto the recording medium, in which the ejection ports are not capped by the cap member; ~~and~~

executing the recovery processing by the recovery means when the cap-open period cumulated by cumulation means exceeds a predetermined period; and

resetting the cumulated period when the recovery processing is executed while the cap-open period is cumulated.

Claim 14 (cancelled)